THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, with a view to improve the liquidity position of sugar factories and to enable them to clear cane price arrears of farmers of 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons, the Government has notified a scheme for extending financial assistance to Sugar Undertakings, 2007. the scheme covers all sugar mills, which have been functional/were functional during 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar season. The sugar mills classified as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) are also covered under the scheme, provided the State Government gives guarantee for their new loans. Loans are to be granted equivalent to the national Central Excise Duty payable on total production of sugar during 2006-07 and 2007-08 sugar seasons. The Central Excise duty is to be taken net of Sugar Cess. Full interest subvention is to be provided to all Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks for the total duration of the loan, *i.e.* 4 years including 2 years moratorium. The interest subvention is limited to 12% per annum of which 5% is to be met out of general budget provisions of the Central Government and the remaining 7% from the Sugar Development Fund. The scheme has already been implemented by the banks.

Payment of capital gains Tax by FIIs

3024. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has sought an amendment to the Income Tax Act so that all Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) pay capital gains tax on their profits in India;

(b) if so, the section of the IT Act which prevents Government from collecting capital gains tax on FIIs' profits; and

(c) the details of steps Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Taxation of capital gains of Foreign Institutional Investors is provided for in the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with the relevant Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Waving off loans of farmers

†3025. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers having land holdings of three acres, at present in the country;

(b) the number of farmers out of them who have outstanding loan of banks and money lenders as well alongwith the amount of such loans separately, state-wise;

(c) the amount made available to banks and financial institutions during the year 2007-08 and 2008-09 by Government for waiving off laons of the farmers and the names of districts with the number of farmers from such districts whose loans would be waived off; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to waive off the loans of remaining farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) As per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on Operational Land Holdings in India, 2002-03, 101.3 million land holdings are operated during the Kharif season and 95.7 million land holdings during Rabi season of 2002-03. Of these, marginal holdings (of size 1 hectare or less) in 2002-03 constituted 70% of all operational holdings while small holdings (size 1 to 2 hectares) constituted 16%.

Further, as per NSSO data on 'Indebtedness of Farmer Households' (2003), 51.4% of farmer households do not access credit, either from institutional or non-institutional sources. Of the total farmer households, only 27% access formal sources of credit; one third of this group also borrow from non-formal sources.

As per present estimates, the number of farmers (land holdings upto 2 hectares) with outstanding loans to banks is three crore. The Data Reporting System of Reserve Bank of India and National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) does not generate any State-wise data on money lending.

(c) and (d) During 2008-09, the Government is to reimburse Rs. 25,000 crore to the banks towards implementing the Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme. The Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers 2008 is applicable throughout the country and consequently in all the districts.

Small Savings

†3026. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount collected through small savings during last three years;

(b) whether there has been any decrease in small savings deposit during this period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The gross colle ctions under small savings schemes in post offices and banks during the last three years have been Rs. 2,00,148 crore in 2005-06, Rs. 1,82,181 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 1,23,725 crore in 2007-08 (April 2007 to February 2008).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The gross collections in 2006-07 fell by 9% over the corresponding figures for 2005-06. In 2007-08 (upto February 2008), the gross collections registered a decline of 27% over the figures for the corresponding period of 2006-07.

Mobile banking system

3027. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal to operate mobile phone banking system, in which customers avail of deposit and withdrawal facility as well as transfer money to other account through mobile telephone without the customer ever having to visit the bank-branch or ATM;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features thereof, indicating how many banks have got nod for using such mobile phone banking system in the country by Reserve Bank of India (RBI); and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.